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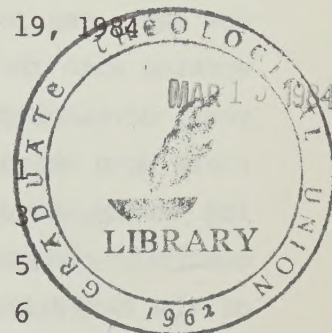
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OHIO CHURCH WOMANNAMED UTO COORDINATOR

DPS 84005

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 19) --Willeen Smith, a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Hamilton, Ohio, has been named the United Thank Offering coordinator at the Episcopal Church Center, according to an announcement from Presiding Bishop John M. Allin. Smith began her new job on Jan. 17.

Her lay ministries have been as diverse as spending two years with a mission in Liberia and serving as senior warden and stewardship campaign chairman at her home parish. Smith says she has a "very simple philosophy" about lay ministry: "You do what's in front of you to do...you don't worry about how big it is...the Lord will find you and help you."

After over nine years as director of the Butler County Ohio Council on Aging, Smith had nearly finished dissolving the council by placing the programs and workers into senior centers. She was facing the prospect of being without a job when she read about the job opening in the October Interchange, the diocesan newspaper.

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REV. CRAIG BIDDLE

HEADS ADVOCACY NET

DPS 84008

Washington (DPS, Jan. 19) -- The National Interfaith Action Network, IMPACT, has named the Rev. Craig Biddle III as National Director. An Episcopal priest, Biddle formerly served St. Paul's Church in Richmond, Va. Founder of the Richmond Urban Institute, an ecumenical advocacy group, he has participated in interfaith organizations in New Haven and Washington. He was national director of the Church and City Conference, which was instrumental in the organization of the Episcopal Urban Bishops' Coalition.

Biddle describes himself as an urban priest with strong ecumenical roots. Long committed to political advocacy, Biddle served as a legislative assistant on Capitol Hill. He has been an active participant over the past two decades in the witness of the religious community in behalf of civil rights and peace.

Welcomed to the December board meeting of IMPACT, Biddle said, "I begin my ministry as a listener, studying carefully the contribution IMPACT can make to its participating denominations." Biddle is meeting with Washington representatives of the 23 denominations, and with their colleagues in the national denominational headquarters. He spoke enthusiastically of the "strong and vibrant organizations in the state IMPACT network. The 20 state agencies must be strengthened, while new state organizations must be encouraged to join our fellowship."

Plans are already under way, Biddle stated, for the annual IMPACT/WISC congressional briefing, March 25-28. Over 500 delegates from many denominations will take part in the briefing, hearing members of Congress and other experts speak on national issues, and visiting their elected representatives.

"IMPACT is called to bring before the Congress and other branches of government the moral concerns of the Jewish and Christian communities. It can be an increasingly potent force to convey the moral imperative of our faith community bearing on legislation affecting hunger, arms reduction, human rights, and equal justice for all."

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(EDITORS: A photograph of Biddle, #84008, is enclosed.)

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MEETING TO EXPLORE

WORKING CLASS MINISTRY

DPS 84009

BLACKSBURG, Va. (DPS, Jan. 19) -- The diocese of Kentucky is hosting a conference on the Episcopal Church's ministry with the working class at St. Peters in the Valley, Louisville, Ky., beginning the evening of March 2 through noon, March 4.

Participation is sought from dioceses in the Ohio Valley and adjacent areas, especially from parishes serving working class communities. The organizers hope to have a team of one cleric and at least two lay persons from each parish attend.

For this conference "working class or blue collar constituency" is defined as "not just factory workers, but also service workers, clerical, sales, agriculture, nurses, single heads of households, homemakers, the non-affluent, the upwardly mobile economically and socially."

The purpose of the conference is to provide mutual support among those serving in working class communities and to strengthen and expand the Episcopal Church's ministry within these communities.

The keynote speakers will be the Rev. Robert W. Carlson, professor and director of field education at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary.

Celebrant for the closing Eucharist will be the Rt. Rev. David B. Reed, bishop of Kentucky and conference host. The preacher will be the Rev. Hugh C. White, Jr. executive secretary, Church and Society Network and associate editor of The Witness magazine.

Others experienced in working class ministries will serve as resource persons to facilitate work groups and lead seminars.

The work groups will deal with such topics as: How does an Episcopal Church look to the working class?; Are there working class Episcopalians?; Are there working class people who want and/or need the Episcopal Church?; building community in the working class parish; Evangelism among the working class; Worship and community among the working class; and service to the neighborhood in the working class parish.

DPS 84009/2

Conference participants will stay at the Southwest Holiday Inn on Dixie Highway. Conference costs are \$53.00 per person, which covers four meals and two nights lodging in a double room. All rooms, double or single occupancy, are \$36.00 per nights. There is a \$30.00 registration fee, \$10.00 of which is non-refundable.

Persons unable to secure expenses from local parish or diocese may be eligible for a grant from conference funds.

The program is being designed by the Rev. Ward Ewing, rector of St. Peter's in the Valley; Michael Maloney, Appalachian People's Service Organization staff person; the Rev. William Coats, rector of Church of the Redeemer, Pittsburgh; and the Rev. Morris Hollenbaugh, rector of Trinity Church, Hamilton, Ohio and Service Organization Urban Poverty Program Unit Coordinator. Staff support is being provided by the Service Organization.

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VATICAN DIPLOMACY

STIRS MINI-FUROR

DPS 84010

NEW YORK, (DPS, Jan. 19) -- When President Truman attempted to name Gen. Mark Clark ambassador to the Vatican in 1951, he ran into solid, sometimes bitter, opposition from a broad spectrum of American religious leaders including the National Council of Churches and the Episcopal Church. The appointment was not confirmed.

Thirty-three years later, his successor, President Reagan, appears to have fared much better. Legislation permitting such a move after 116 years sailed through Congress with little opposition and the announcement that Reagan's personal envoy would be upgraded to ambassador created only muted dissent. Even among opponents, there seems little taste for creating a modern counterpart to the League that battled Truman.

The National Council of Churches reiterated its 33-year-old stand which is based on what that body views as the constitutional demand for separation of church and state and this was the point echoed by most other opponents. The bitter anti-Catholicism that marked the earlier debate was largely absent; a point noted by the president of the U.S. Catholic Conference which had remained neutral until the announcement. "The matter is not a religious issue," said Youngstown Bishop James Malone, "but a public policy question which, happily, has now been addressed and settled in that context."

While the Episcopal Church has taken no official stand on the new appointment, the executive committee of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical Officers happened to be meeting in San Diego when the announcement was made and that group sought to bring some perspective to the issue.

"We believe that there are many positive as well as negative factors to be considered," they said in a prepared statement. "We expect that members of the Episcopal Church will reflect a wide range of opinion -- as will, probably, Roman Catholics and other Christians in this country. As persons firmly committed to ecumenism and to the reconciliation of the Christian Church, we wish to be clear and emphatic in urging caution and restraint in public discussion of this matter. We

DPS 84010/2

would regret any action which might dilute or diminish the prophetic voice of leadership of the communities of faith within our national life.

"We are grateful for the courageous and prophetic witness of the Roman Catholic Bishops and other religious leaders in the United States in regard to the critical issues of War and Peace, concerns which we share. It is these, together with issues involving Social Justice, which we believe must be paramount in our thinking."

The effort of the ecumenical officers' panel to focus attention on the common efforts and shared opinions of the two national Churches reflects a general trend in ecumenical activity. While theological dialogue continues on national and international levels, there is also a great deal of common witness on social issues within countries, witness that may place a national Church hierarchy at odds with its own worldwide leadership.

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CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

DPS 84011

IBADAN, Nigeria, (DPS, Jan. 19) -- Archbishop Timothy Olufo-
soye of Nigeria has assured officers of the Anglican Consultative Coun-
cil that Nigeria is "calm and returning to normal" after a recent coup
and that the Anglican Church looks forward to hosting the Council's
plenary meeting next July. In early December, the Church's synod had
called upon the government then in power to concentrate its efforts on
the problems of unemployment and hunger and chided the leadership for
the "general moral decadence; and lack of probity, integrity and faith-
ful loyal service in our country;" all issues that the new leaders have
promised to address.

GENEVA, N.Y. (DPS, Jan. 19) -- Dr. Charles R. Lawrence, pre-
sident of the House of Deputies of the General Convention, has just
completed a week as a visiting scholar at Hobart and William Smith Col-
leges here, exploring with students and faculty the "Church as Witness
for Peace and Justice." Lawrence, professor emeritus of Brooklyn Col-
lege, began his tour as Association of Episcopal Colleges Visiting Fel-
low by preaching at a service honoring slain civil rights leaders Dr.
Martin Luther King, Jr.. He carried through his theme in lectures and
classroom discussions.

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 19) -- The severe and capricious winter
weather this year has set relief agencies, local networks and churches
scrambling to help and, often, seemingly small amounts can bring a dra-
matic difference. Eastern Oregon Bishop Rustin R. Kimsey requested --
and received -- \$5,000 from the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief
early in the year to help families displaced by floods and cold weather
in the already economically depressed town of Bend, Ore. He estimated
that the funds would be enough to relocate ten complete families.

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DPS 84011/2

DURHAM, N.C. (DPS, Jan. 19) -- An insurance man has a new hat. A rector is bareheaded and an outstanding community ministry is \$1,000 richer. The bareheaded rector is the Rev. Tom Midyette whose St. Philip's Church is a key element in the Episcopal Church - designated Jubilee Center, Durham Interfaith Ministries. When Mark Margolis saw Midyette's bowler, he offered to buy it, but Midyette said he would only relinquish it in exchange for a \$1,000 gift to the Ministries. Margolis checked with his rabbi -- a board member of the interfaith coalition -- and with his encouragement got ten friends to contribute the needed funds.

JACKSON, Miss. (DPS, Jan. 19) -- The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief of the Episcopal Church is a partner in an ambitious, statewide food bank, centered here. An \$8,000 Fund grant will rebuild a disused church to make it a suitable warehouse for the Mississippi Food Network, Inc. which will store and distribute food goods to local feeding stations. The diocese has built the network into the budget, ecumenical and civic groups are supporting the operation and the salary of the warehouseman, and the governor has arranged for volunteers from the state prisons to do much of the clean-up labor

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